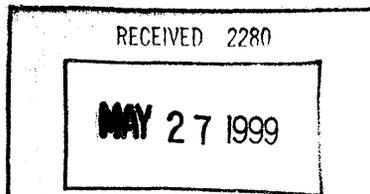


**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**



749

**National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions on how to complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "X" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Quinn Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church and Parsonage

other names/site number NeHBS# LC13:C7-152 and LC13:C7-153

2. Location

street & number 1225 South 9th St.

city or town Lincoln [N/A] not for publication [N/A] vicinity

state Nebraska code NE county Lancaster code 109 zip code 68502

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. ([] See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Wendell Smith

5/24/99

Signature of certifying official

Date

Director, Nebraska State Historical Society
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. ([] See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

entered in the National Register.
[] See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register
[] See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain):

for
Edson H. Beall

6/25/99

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

| Contributing | Noncontributing | |
|--------------|-----------------|------------|
| 2 | 0 | buildings |
| 0 | 0 | sites |
| 0 | 0 | structures |
| 0 | 0 | objects |
| 2 | 0 | Total |

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

African American Historic and Architectural
Resources in Lincoln, Nebraska

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

2

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION: Religious Facility
RELIGION: Church-Related Residence

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION: Religious Facility
RELIGION: Church-Related Residence

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS:
Late Gothic Revival

OTHER: American Foursquare

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation rusticated concrete block
walls stucco covered brick ; asbestos siding
roof other
other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

See Continuation Sheets.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or a grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ETHNIC HERITAGE/BLACK
RELIGION

Period of Significance

1905 to 1941

Significant Dates

1905, 1915, 1926

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

NA

Cultural Affiliation

NA

Architect/Builder

A.W. Woods

A. L. Hansen, Builder

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

See Continuation Sheets.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey
Record # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering
Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other
- Name of repository:
Lincoln/Lancaster County Planning Department

Name of Property

County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1. 14 693420 4518900
Zone Easting Northing

3. Zone Easting Northing

2. 4. See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)
See Continuation Sheet.

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Dr. Marilyn Johnson-Farr, Quinn Chapel AME Church (with technical assistance Kathryn E. Colwell)

organization Lincoln/Lancaster County Planning Department date April 1, 1999

street & number 555 S. 10th Street telephone (402) 471-6360

city or town Lincoln state NE zip code 68508

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name _____

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Quinn Chapel AME Church

Name of Property

Lancaster County, Nebraska

County and State

Section number 7 Page 1

DESCRIPTION

Quinn Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church is a stuccoed brick structure with a steep gable roof and Gothic Revival style features, located on a prominent corner site in the South Bottoms Historic District (NRHP 1986) in Lincoln, Lancaster County, Nebraska. The church was constructed a few blocks away in 1905, was moved to this location in 1915, and attained its current form with an enlargement and remodeling in 1926. At the south end of the church is a second contributing building, a wood-frame, asbestos-clad, 2-story American Foursquare, built in 1923 as the parsonage and still used as such.

Quinn Chapel African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church in Lincoln, Nebraska, and its adjacent parsonage, are identified as contributing properties within the South Bottoms Historic District (NRHP, 1986) but their association with African American ethnic history is not fully developed. This nomination focuses on the buildings as contributing historic resources under the Multiple Property Documentation Form entitled "African American Historic and Architectural Resources in Lincoln, Nebraska." Specifically, the church and its parsonage demonstrate the property type "resources related to religion" and the subtypes "religious facility" and "church-related residence."

Quinn Chapel is located at 1225 S. 9th Street, on the southwest corner of the intersection of S. 9th and C Streets. The church is currently illustrative of the Gothic Revival style. The modest, one-story stuccoed church has a rectangular plan and is capped by a steeply sloping side gable roof with a crenelated, two-story, square-section tower at the northeast corner. The building's high foundation is of oversized, quarry-faced concrete blocks. The church is located in a neighborhood of small scale dwellings, predominantly of wood frame construction.

Although the church currently illustrates the Gothic Revival style, which was popular at its time of relocation and renovation, Quinn Chapel originally displayed Georgian Revival features and was located at 1026 'F' Street, approximately three blocks northeast of its current location. Built in 1905, this church was constructed of brick and was largely devoid of ornament except for segmental brick arches over the entrance door and windows, a sill-high, quarry-faced foundation, and a round window in the gable end. In 1915, the church was moved to its present location on the corner of 9th and 'C' Streets. At this time the building was stylistically modernized to reflect the popular Gothic Revival. These changes included addition of tower, stucco wall cladding, and gothic arched windows.

In 1926, the growing congregation hired prominent local architect A. W. Woods, who specialized in church design, to enlarge and once again modernize the church. Those alterations give the church its current appearance. They included a sixteen-foot addition at the rear (south) end, the reorientation of the entrance from the north facing gable end, and the creation of a pair of entrances at the north and south ends of the east facade. The principal northeast entrance is located in the base of the enlarged tower and is topped by a stained-glass window inscribed "Quinn Chapel AME." The tower entrance provides access to both the sanctuary and basement. Gabled and bracketed door hoods shelter both east entrances. Early views show that the tower was designed and built with decorative quatrefoil windows in the upper portion of the tower on the north and east sides. In subsequent repairs those windows were removed and the upper tower now has a simple, smooth stucco finish.

The sanctuary is a single open space, punctuated by the tall, stained glass windows. The windows consist predominantly of variegated, colored glass, but several bear small religious symbols, such as a cross within a crown and a dove, in their upper portions. One window shows two clasped hands and the acronym I.B.P.O.E. for the Elks fraternal order.

South of the church on the same parcel is a two-story American Foursquare frame house with a facade gable roof and full-length, hipped roof porch. The gable-ends have simple knee-brackets at the peak and at each corner. The porch has narrow quarry-

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Quinn Chapel AME Church

Name of Property

Lancaster County, Nebraska

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faced concrete-block pedestals supporting square-section wooden piers. An early photograph shows the walls clad in narrow clapboards, which are now covered with asbestos siding. The date of installation of that siding is not documented, but it likely was added before the end of the period of significance (1941). The house retains the essential elements of an American Foursquare in its boxy form, bracketed roof, and pillared full-length porch, and it retains its original relationships of location and use to the neighboring church.

Overall the Quinn Chapel AME Church and parsonage retain high degrees of integrity, especially in the aspects of location, design, feeling, and association. The church reached its present form through a series of building campaigns from 1905 to 1926, but retains the significant features of the 1926 remodeling as designed by A. W. Woods. The church continues to provide an important presence in relation to the existing residential neighborhood.

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Section number 8 Page 1

Quinn Chapel AME Church

Name of Property

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Quinn Chapel African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church and its parsonage have been listed on the National Register of Historic Places since 1986 as contributing properties within the South Bottoms Historic District. This nomination establishes the further significance at the local level of the church and parsonage under Criterion A for their association with African American ethnic history in Lincoln, Nebraska, as the continuing home of the first African American church established in Lincoln, and for the church's broad-based contribution to its community.

Quinn Chapel AME Church and parsonage are significant under criterion A in the area of African American ethnic heritage. The buildings relate to the Multiple Property Documentation Form entitled "African American Historic and Architectural Resources in Lincoln, Nebraska." The Quinn Chapel and its parsonage are associated with the historic contexts entitled "Early Settlement including the First Exodus, 1870 - 1913" and "Institution Building in an Era of Segregation, 1914 - 1941." The property's date of significance begins at the current church structure's construction date of 1905 and extends through 1941, the last date of significance of the second historic context identified in the Multiple Property Document Listing.

"Criteria Consideration A" of the National Register notes that religious properties are not ordinarily listed on the National Register, unless they derive their primary significance from their historical or artistic importance. While Quinn Chapel does demonstrate the ability of Lincoln church architect A. W. Woods to unify a relocated and much-modified building, its primary significance is not in the area of architecture. Instead, the church and parsonage clearly meet "Consideration A" in their historic importance, for Quinn Chapel's broad role supporting African American settlement in Lincoln and in its historical and continual community involvement.

Quinn Chapel is associated with both historic contexts due to its status as the first documented African American church in Lincoln, Nebraska and its continued presence as a significant Lincoln congregation throughout the second context period. Quinn Chapel was officially organized in 1871 with a membership of eleven persons, just four years after Lincoln was founded as the State Capital. Early worship services were held in members' homes. In 1873, the small congregation received two lots from the Nebraska State Legislature for the erection of a house of worship. The congregation subsequently built their first church on this land at 1024 'E' Street.

An example of early involvement by the church in the Lincoln community is noted in the *Nebraska State Journal* of July 2, 1879. This newspaper reports the arrival of forty-two "Exodusters" from Louisiana and Mississippi, via Kansas, who were provided food and shelter by members of the Quinn congregation. In addition to traditional AME worship services, early Quinn Chapel activities included the formation of a Literary Church Aide Society and the nurturing of a Sunday School of one hundred scholars. During these years the church also maintained a library containing over four hundred volumes. This broad role was typical of African American churches throughout America, and in Lincoln during both historic context periods.

In 1899, the Quinn Chapel congregation moved into a large two-story tenement at 1026 'F' Street. This building was remodeled and served as the church's home until 1905, when the congregation built a one-story, brick-veneered church. In 1915, this structure was moved to 9th and 'C' Streets where it was remodeled and became the heart of the current church. By this time the church membership had grown to 160 members. Church activities included worship services Sunday morning and evening and on Wednesday evening. Sunday Schools and youth and adult choirs were active. In 1926, with a membership of over 200 persons, the congregation engaged in a building campaign enlarging and remodeling the church structure into its current form.

Quinn Chapel not only continued its dual roles of religious and community service through 1941, but continues to do so today. Asked to address the role and significance of their church, current (1999) members articulate Quinn Chapel's historic and

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Quinn Chapel AME Church

Name of Property

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contemporary role:

"Today as a visitor enters the small church structure on the corner of 9th and 'C' Streets they are entering an environment filled with spiritual, cultural, and family legacies which have stood the test of time. If one expands their lens to gain a closer view they will see those who have been a part of this environment for as little as two years and those who boast of forty years and beyond. What do we hear as they describe the impact of Quinn chapel A.M.E. Church on their sense of being? First we hear Richard Allen founder of the African Methodist Episcopal church in 1816 make this comment, '*The Lord was pleased to strengthen us, and remove all fear from us, and disposed our hearts to be as useful as possible.*'

"Over the last one-hundred and twenty-seven years that spirit of usefulness has served as a symbol of strength for the members of Quinn Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church. The members swell with pride, devotion, loyalty, and steadfastness as they maintain their Christian soldier postures. Quinn Chapel has served as a training field for city council representatives, lawyers, doctors, educators, and entrepreneurs. The environment has provided a safe place for voice for people with like identities and experiences to come worship and fellowship. The historical ties that Quinn Chapel is girded with keep her keeping on, while the perseverance founded and directed by the Holy Spirit embody her every move."

Quinn Chapel AME Church and its parsonage is thus significant not only as part of the South Bottoms Historic District but is also significant under National Register criterion A for its association with African American heritage and establishment of religious institutions. Quinn Chapel demonstrates clearly the key role of the church, exemplifying the loyalty, hard work, and faith of its congregation during the early years of African American settlement in Lincoln; and the church's continued role as a sustaining force in the lives of its members as Lincoln became an increasingly segregated city following World War I.

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Section number 9 & 10 Page 1

Quinn Chapel AME Church

Name of Property

Lancaster County, Nebraska

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

This property consists of Lot 1 of Block 222 of the Original Plat of Lincoln, Lancaster County, Nebraska.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

These boundaries include all the property historically associated with Quinn Chapel A.M.E. Church and Parsonage.

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Continuation Sheet**

Quinn Chapel AME Church

Name of Property

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PHOTOGRAPHS

The following information applies to all photographs:

Quinn Chapel A M E Church and Parsonage

Lincoln, Lancaster County, Nebraska

All negatives at Lincoln/Lancaster County Planning Department

Photos taken April 1999

Photo 1 of 5

View looking southwest of the Quinn Chapel AME Church (right) and Quinn Parsonage (left)

Photograph taken by Edward F. Zimmer

Photo 2 of 5

View looking west of Quinn Chapel AME Church

Photograph taken by Kathryn E. Colwell

Photo 3 of 5

View looking west of the northern and main entrance, east facade Quinn Chapel AME Church

Photograph taken by Edward F. Zimmer

Photo 4 of 5

View looking southwest of the southern and secondary entrance, east facade Quinn Chapel AME Church (right) and Quinn Parsonage (left)

Photograph taken by Edward F. Zimmer

Photo 5 of 5

View looking northwest of the Quinn Parsonage (left) and south and rear facade of Quinn Chapel AME Church (right)

Photograph taken by Edward F. Zimmer